MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 JUNE 1985

Lebanon

Hijacking Crisis — Amal sources disclosed that the 37 passengers are being kept in three locations in Beirut, noting that they include a group of Americans with "Jewish sounding names" who were taken off the aircraft by Hezbollah militia the night of 14 June, according to AFP. However, Amal movement leader Nabih Birri told Vienna television in a 20 June interview that none of the hostages have Jewish names, dismissing such reports as "propaganda." Birri also responded positively to the Swiss Government's offer of assistance, expressing approval of proposals for exchanging the hostages for Israel's Shi'ite prisoners on Swiss territory, Beirut radio reported. As for the United States, which is "more royalist than the king," Birri said the Americans should be "less royalist than Israel" and enter into "direct contacts" to secure the release of the 'Atlit detainees.

In Israel, ITIM cited Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' statement of support and admiration for President Reagan's refusal to capitulate to terrorism, and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Mainz ZDF Television that he accepts and agrees with the U.S. position, voicing his "personal assessment" that Israel must make no concessions to terrorism. Citing intelligence sources in London, Israel's DAVAR reported that the hijacking of the TWA jet was planned by Iran and approved by Syria.

Other Developments — Sunni groups organized a general strike in West Beirut 21 June to protest Shi'ite domination, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party are preparing a joint force to purge the area of "hostile" groups, according to an Amal source cited by the radio.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni contended in his 'Id al-Fitr address that the 14 June Jerusalem Day demonstrations in Iran were a "slap in the face" for foreign analysts who have propagated the notion that the Iranian people are tired of the war with Iraq. He did not refer to the Beirut hijacking in his speech, which was broadcast by Tehran radio. Meanwhile, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani left for Libya after meeting with Khomeyni, announcing that his talks with the Libyan leader will cover Lebanese and regional issues, according to IRNA.

As for the war, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi warned that Iran will bombard Iraqi cities nonstop if Iraq resumes its attacks on Iranian residential areas, IRNA reported.

Al-Asad in Moscow

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concluded his working visit to the USSR but will spend 2 days of rest in the outskirts of Moscow, Damascus radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 120 *21 June 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

'Just Solution' in Talks With Pakistan Sought ..... C 1
E. European, Cuban Troops Reportedly Aiding Kabul *[PA]* ..... C 1
Mine on Herat Highway Kills 2, Injures 5 Civilians ..... C 1

INDIA

6 Killed, 11 Injured in Ahmedabad Army Shooting ..... E 1
USSR Agrees To Collaborate on Oil Exploration ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Delhi Cites PPI on U.S. Arms Talks Freeze ..... F 1
JANG Calls For Action Against Slave Labor *[8 Jun]* ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Reportage on Explosions, Casualities in Katmandu ..... G 1
Parliament Member, Others Killed *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Parliament Called Into Session ..... G 1
Delhi: 'At Least 5' Explosions ..... G 1
Death Toll at 7 *[Delhi Domestic]* ..... G 1
Police Arrest 100 *[AFP]* ..... G 2
Delhi on Situation, Casualties ..... G 2
King, Queen Visit Victims ..... G 2
Delhi Reports Explosions in Birganj ..... G 2
Statement on Bombings ..... G 2
King Addresses 36th Rashtriya Panchayat Session ..... G 3

SRI LANKA

Tamil Separatists To Observe 3-Month Cease-Fire *[AFP]* ..... G 5

IRAN

Khomeyni Receives Hashemi-Rafsanjani 20 Jun ..... I 1
Khomeyni Addresses Officials on 'Id al-Fitr Festival ..... I 1
Rafsanjani Departs for Libya, Views Hijacking ..... I 3
Interviewed on Visit, Hijacking ..... I 3
Sends Message to USSR ..... I 4
Sends Message to Turkey ..... I 4
Japan 'Looking Forward To' Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visit ..... I 4
Prime Minister Musavi Visits Tabriz 20 Jun ..... I 4
Addresses Construction Workers ..... I 4
Israel May Free Prisoners; Says No Tie to Hijacking ..... I 5
Reportage, Comment on Iraqi Military Operations ..... I 5
Retaliation If Bombing Resumes ..... I 5
Communique on Iraqi Casualties ..... I 5
Badr Sector Infiltration ..... I 6

'Just Solution' in Talks With Pakistan Sought

LD200813 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Kabul, June 19, BAKHTAR — The fourth round of Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan will be resumed on June 20, 1985. It was planned that these talks be held in Feb 1985, but as a result of obstructionist position of Pakistani military regime, the talks were postponed.

The Government of the DRA comes out for a just and mutually acceptable solution of the problems around Afghanistan. And relying on its peaceful foreign policy, addressed constructive proposals dated May 1980 and August 1981 to the Governments of Pakistan and Iran. The DRA considers these proposals as being the only way for overcoming the problems.

Regretfully, Islamabad's government doesn't offer any constructive proposals. Pakistani military regime, disregarding the will of the people of both Afghanistan and Pakistan tries hard to exacerbate tensions in the region. The only way lies through direct negotiations and peaceful means, not using force which runs contrary to the interests of the people of the two countries.

The Afghan people are building a just and new society and consider the undeclared war waged by imperialism headed by the U.S. imperialism as being the most major obstacle on that way.

What is, the purpose of the foes of the DRA for disrupting the process of Geneva talks? Concrete testimony is at hand that the cutthroats and subversive elements trained by U.S., Chinese and Pakistani instructors and equipped with U.S., Britain, Chinese, Egyptian and Pakistani weapons, are constantly being dispatched from Pakistani territory into the DRA for subversion and destruction.

The DRA wants to live in peace with its neighbours but the US imperialism by fanning the so-called "Afghanistan issue" is strengthening its military presence in the region and has changed Pakistan into a gendarme for safeguarding its "vital interests" in South and South-West Asia.

This policy is completely countrary to the interests of the people of the DRA and Pakistan and the fact has been realized by the members of the Pakistani parliament as well. They have been coming but in favour of Zia regime's holding direct talks with the DRA.

E. European, Cuban Troops Reportedly Aiding Kabul

LD201053 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1020 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Bulgarian, Cuban and East German troops are fighting alongside Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan, according to a report today.

The first Soviet confirmation of the presence of troops from other Communist countries in Afghanistan was published in an underground newspaper in Estonia, a Soviet Baltic republic, according to the authoritative *INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE REVIEW* today.

The report says the three countries are generally thought to have supplied mainly logistics and support units.

The Estonian paper published an interview with a Soviet soldier who had just returned from Afghanistan who said his unit had guarded the Kabul-Jalalabad Road with Bulgarian units.

The soldier reported heavy losses and low morale among Soviet troops and said there was considerable tension between Soviet soldiers from the Asiatic republics and those from European Russia.

Mine on Herat Highway Kills 2, Injures 5 Civilians

LD210630 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Kabul, June 20, BAKHTAR — Two people were killed and five injured in Herat City recently when a mine planted by the Afghan counter-revolutionary bandits exploded on Herat Adraskan high-way, blowing up a civilian motor vehicle.

Two passengers were killed on the spot, while five other persons every one of whom is over 50 years of age received serious injuries. They were transferred to Herat hospital.

It may be recalled that only a few weeks ago the counter-revolutionaries had blown up a mosque in Herat as a result of which several reciters of Holy Koran were martyred.

These incidents have evoked deep wrath and indignation of citizens of Herat.

6 Killed, 11 Injured in Ahmedabad Army Shooting

BK201600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] In Gujarat, 6 persons were killed and 11 injured in Army firing in Ahmedabad this evening.

The state home minister, Mr Amarsingh Choudhury, told newsmen that the Army opened fire at three places to disperse stone throwing mob after the Rath Yatra [Hindu car festival celebration] passed off peacefully.

He regretted that the Rath Yatra was taken out against the government's request. The minister urged the people to maintain peace.

Meanwhile, the state chief minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, met the union home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi today and apprised him of the situation in the state.

USSR Agrees To Collaborate on Oil Exploration

BK201612 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] The Soviet Union has agreed to collaborate with India in exploring oil in the Cambay region of western state of Gujarat and the Cauvery Basin in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The petroleum secretary, Mr G.V. Ramakrishna, said this in New Delhi today. He expressed the hope that in the near future, other countries would also show interest in offshore oil exploration.

Delhi Cites PPI on U.S. Arms Talks Freeze

BK201619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] According to the PAKISTAN NEWS AGENCY, PPI, Washington has decided to temporarily freeze negotiations on the sale of modern military equipment to Islamabad. The agency said the decision does not apply to the existing 6-year agreement on the sale of American weapons to Pakistan costing $3.2 billion.

JANG Calls for Action Against Slave Labor

GF201502 Lahore JANG in Urdu 8 Jun 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Run From the Slavers"]

[Text] Federal Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khattak has said that if the government received any reports on the presence of forced labor camps or slavers it will not hesitate to take action. He urged the public to inform the government if it learns of such camps.

In the presence of the interior minister, the ministry's secretary, also commenting on the subject, said that according to intelligence reports there are no slavery or forced labor camps in the country and therefore the government was absolved from taking any action on the matter.

What should those poor persons whose children have been stolen or kidnapped by slavers do even if they find them and inform the government of the location of such camps in which the kidnapped children are employed in forced labor to the point of starvation?

What surprises us is that everybody in Pakistan knows of the presence of such camps where the inmates must work long hours and during the night they are chained together to prevent their escape. Do the intelligence agencies not know that just a few months earlier a list of 100 missing children was published in an English-language daily in Karachi? It contained names and addresses of missing children compiled from various news reports that have appeared in various papers of the country. What has the Interior Ministry done about such reports?

Some children who have escaped to freedom in one way or the other from the forced labor camps have revealed the names of their kidnappers and the locations of the camps, but has any police station taken notice of this?

One such young man, by the name of Amjad Ali, who said his father's name was Dr Saeed Shah, was kidnapped some 18 years ago from an English medium school in Lahore. Since his escape, he has been searching for his parents. However, since he cannot give his home address, which he has forgotten, he cannot find his parents. Furthermore, since he cannot give a home address, police stations do not bother to record his report since they cannot determine in what area the kidnapping took place.

There are forced labor camps in the NWFP and the kidnappees are often employed in digging earth at canal works or constructing buildings for the canals department. These kidnapped children are subjected to every kind of abuse. For the smallest of mistakes they are branded and if they die under torture, they are buried in unmarked graves. Many have grown old in chains and have totally lost their memories. Children kidnapped from villages are seldom registered with the police. Such crime is widespread throughout the country but the government claims that it is not aware of it.

Will the interior minister request the file that contains newspaper clippings about kidnapped children or missing persons? It seems the intelligence agencies are not concerned with kidnappings or slavery. Even if they are ignorant of this crime, it does not mean that the crime does not exist.

NEPAL

Reportage on Explosions, Casualities in Katmandu

Parliament Member, Others Killed

HK201518 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Katmandu, June 20 (AFP) — Bomb explosions ripped through central Katmandu today killing at least five people, including a member of parliament and two foreigners, and injuring at least 20 other people, officials said. They said at least five bombs planted by unknown attackers went off near the king's palace, in the lobby of parliament building and in the luxury Hotel de l'Annapurna.

Legislator Damber Jung Gurung was killed on the spot in the parliament lobby and four other M.P.'s were injured, two of them suffering serious stomach injuries, the officials said. One, Janak Bahadur Shah, was discharged from hospital later. A woman staff member and two unidentified foreigners were killed at the five-star Hotel de l'Annapurna, where at least 15 people were injured as an explosion rocked the main entrance.

The banned opposition Nepali Congress, which has led a civil disobedience campaign in recent weeks in which nearly seven thousand people have been arrested, condemned the attacks.

Unconfirmed reports said there had been an explosion at Bhairahwa Airport southeast of the Nepalese capital.

The fifth victim was believed to be a bell-boy at the hotel, though an earlier report said it was a clerk in the parliament lobby, officials said. They added there were at least 20 injuries altogether. Many foreigners were evacuated through a back door of the hotel as fire broke out. The roof of the entrance above the lobby and reception area was badly damaged.

The explosions began in the early afternoon and continued at half-hour intervals. Officials said no one had claimed responsibility for the attacks. They said foreign involvement was not ruled out but gave no details. Telephone links to New Delhi were cut shortly after the explosions.

Parliament, the National Panchayat, was to meet later today in emergency session to be addressed by Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha, officials said. There was no other official reaction to the attacks.

One of the bombs went off at the main entrance of the Central Secretariat, but caused no serious damage or injuries.

The Nepali Congress Party said it would call off its civil disobedience movement against the government of Lokendra Bahadur Chand, because of the bombings. It had been campaigning for a return to multi-party politics. The Panchayat has operated on a non-party system for 25 years. Party youth leader Prem Lal Singh said the party's objectives were peaceful and that "we would never welcome any act of violence."

Nearly seven thousand people have been arrested in the last month and several hundred jailed in the civil disobedience movement, backed by six factions of the banned Nepali Communist Party.

Parliament Called Into Session

BK201518 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] The Rashtriya Panchayat is meeting about [as heard] tonight to be informed by his majesty's government on the events occurring in the country today. According to a notice of the Rashtriya Panchayat, his majesty the king, in accordance with the Constitution of Nepal, has summoned the meeting of the Rashtriya Panchayat for this evening, and the house has been adjourned till Sunday [23 June].

Delhi: 'At Least 5' Explosions

BK201542 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] At least 5 persons were killed and 20 injured today in a number of explosions that shattered the Nepalese capital, Katmandu. Reports say one of the killed was a member of parliament and among the injured were three legislators.

There were at least five explosions, and three came within a few minutes of each other. Two of the blasts occurred at the outer gate of King Birendra's palace in central Katmandu. The others took place at a top hotel and the National Assembly building. Police have cordoned off the sites. The motive behind the explosions is not known.

Death Toll at 7

BK210307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] In Nepal, the death toll in the five explosions which rocked Katmandu yesterday has risen to seven. More than 20 people were also injured in these explosions. Two explosions occurred at the outer gates of King Birendra palace in central Katmandu where several persons were injured.

An emergency session of parliament summoned by King Birendra discussed the situation. The home minister, Mr Jog Mehar Shrestha told the session that among those killed was a member of parliament. He said two persons were killed in the blast in the National Assembly building, four in a hotel in Katmandu and one in Pokhara valley. The man killed at Pokhra was a terrorist. Two other explosions occurred in the town of Bhairawa air terminus in West Nepal, injuring three people.

Nepal has clamped strict security measures and heavily armed troops are patrolling the streets of the capital. No one has claimed the responsibility for the explosions, three of which came within a few minutes of each other.

Police Arrest 100

HK210542 Hong Kong AFP in English 0529 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Katmandu, June 21 (AFP) — Nepalese authorities have arrested at least 100 people in connection with the explosions that killed six and injured at least 22 in Katmandu yesterday, an official said today. The arrests were made during the night as investigations were under way into the detonation of at least five bombs near the king's palace, in the lobby of the Parliament Building and the luxury Hotel de l'Annapurna.

A Nepalese Home Ministry source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that 100 people had been arrested and the government had stepped up security measures in public places and buildings.

The dead included legislator Damber Jung Gurung, a government accountant, a woman staff member and two unidentified foreigners at the five star Hotel de l'Annapurna, and a man believed to be a bell-boy at the hotel, officials said yesterday.

Delhi on Situation, Casualties

BK210848 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] In Nepal, police have arrested more than 100 persons in connection with yesterday's bomb blast that rocked the country and left 7 dead and 22 injured. The dead included a legislator. According to an agency report, four other legislators were among those injured. Life in Katmandu is reported to be normal with people going about their usual business, though strict vigilance is being maintained on vital installations.

Meanwhile, the banned Nepali Congress today suspended its country-wide agitation for replacement of partyless Panchayat system with multiparty democracy. A party spokesman condemned voilence and said the agitation has been suspended because of bomb blast. About 7,000 party activists have courted arrest in the agitation which began last month.

King, Queen Visit Victims

BK211127 Katmandu External Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Their majesties the king and queen visited Deeg Hospital today and acquired information about Bir Bahadur Singh and Pramod Bahadur Saha, wounded in bomb blasts that occurred at the main entrance of the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament] building yesterday.

Delhi Reports Explosions in Birganj

BK211239 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Excerpt] In Nepal, a woman was killed in an explosion at Birganj near the Indo-Nepal border this morning. Police suspect that the woman must have been carrying the explosive which went off. The office of the superintendent of police at Birganj was partially damaged by an explosion late last night.

As reported earlier, the police have arrested more than 100 people in connection with yesterday's blasts in which 7 people were killed and 22 injured.

Statement on Bombings

BK211311 Katmandu External Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] At the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament] meeting summoned by his majesty the king in accordance with the Constitution of Nepal, Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha informed Rashtriya Panchayat members about incidents that took place in the country yesterday. The Rashtriaya Panchayat has unanimously passed a condolence resolution to mourn the death of Rashtriya Panchayat member of Lamjung district, Damber Jung Gurung, who died in the explosion that occurred at the main entrance of the Rashtriya Panchayat building yesterday. The condolence resolution was tabled by the Rashtriya Panchayat chairman, Mariech Man Singh. The house also observed 1-minute silence, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul.

In the resolution, Chairman Singh said the Rashtriya Panchayat building of the supreme legislature is the common property of all the Nepalese people and the forum of people's representatives who involve themselves in the democratic exercise in the interest and welfare of the people and country. Rashtriya Panchayat member Damber Jung Gurung, representing Lamjung district, met the tragic death during an explosion of explosive materials planted by terrorists at the amin entrance of the Rashtriya Panchayat building yesterday. Two other members have also sustained injuries, the resolution continued.

The House denounces such dastardly crimes of the terrorists perpetrated at Rashtriya Panchayat, other public places, and the gate of the Royal Palace, the resolution said. The meeting extended heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family of the late Damber Jung Gurung, who was killed in one of such explosions, and prayed for theeternal peace of the departed soul. The meeting also passed a resolution wishing for prompt recovery of the injured Rashtriya Panchayat members.

The resolution has expressed the confidence that no [words indistinct]system nor Nepalese people in general would be[words indistinct] by such dastardly acts of the terrorists aimed at disturbing the commitment of Nepali populace to peace, democracy, and development. The meeting of the house called on all loyal panchas [members of parliament] and people to firmly counteract such sinister elements and free the nation from the consequences of terrorism, the resolution adds.

Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha informed the Rashtriya Panchayat that Rashtriya Panchayat member Damber Jung Gurung and five others were killed by the bomb explosions occurring at different places of Katmandu yesterday. He said that 19 persons in Katmandu and 2 persons at Bhairawa have also been injured. The minister said that terrorists struck at different parts of the country yesterday to disrupt the existing conditions of peace and security and bring about anarchy. He said explosions occurred around 1345 [0800 GMT] in five different locations of Katmandu, [words indistinct] west gate of the

royal palace, the hall in front of the south gate of the royal palace, the main entrance of the Rashtriya Panchayat Secretariat building, the main gate of Singha Darbar, and the reception hall of Hotel de l'Annapurna. He said one of the few explosives found in the Rashtriya Panchayat building has been defused and is being examined by the bomb explosion experts.

Outside the capital, explosions have caused damage to the administrative office of the airport terminal building of Bhairawa, and another occurred [words indistinct] east of the Deeg hospital. He added there was an explosion also at Dhangarhi in far west of Nepal around 0550 in the morning yesterday. He also informed the members that a terrorist died around 2000 in the evening on Wednesday by the bank of the (Solti) River in Pokhara when one or some of the explosives being carried by him burst. Some items have been recovered from the terrorist.

Giving further information, the home minister said in the explosion which ripped the entrance to the Rashtriya Panchayat building yesterday, four members of the Rashtriya Panchayat — Janak Bahadur Shah, Deep Bahadur Singh, Damber Jung Gurung, and Bhola Man Singh Thapa — and an accountant of Jajarkot Bishnu Prasad Tiwari, were hurt. Rashtriya Panchayat member Damber Jung Gurung died on the spot. The accountant died while undergoing treatment at Deeg hospital, and Rashtriya Panchayat member Deep Bahadur Singh and Rashtriya Panchayat member Janak Bahadur Shah are undergoing treatment at Deeg hospital. Rashtriya Panchayat member Bhola Man Singh Thapa has been discharged after treatment and has returned home, he added.

The minister said that 15 people were injured in the explosion which occurred at Hotel de l'Annapurna. Two of these have died. The reception hall of the hotel has been damaged.

He then informed (? about the) people who were injured in the explosion which hit the airport building in Bhairawa. They are receiving treatment in the local hospital.

The minister noted that cold-blooded murder of innocent people, including respected representatives of the people, and the attempt to damage buildings and property of [words indistinct] and highly respected institutions has [words indistinct] the Nepalese public opinion that criminal, cowardly, and inhuman character of these [words indistinct] people of terrorism.

He added his majesty's government was fully confident, however, that people, no matter in what part of the country, will maintain the poise and will not be deterred in the performance of their duties. He said: I want to assure the house that his majesty's government will take severe action against the terrorists [words indistinct] of murder and damage and destruction of national property. The minister also informed items related to the incident are being examined and some people have been taken into custody for purposes of investigation while others suspected of these heinous crimes are being chased and tracked down. He said: I am confident that honorable members of the house and countrymen [words indistinct] will extend every cooperation to his majesty's government and act against the terrorists. His majesty's government will keep the house informed as additional information becomes available. He added: Despite these tragic events, the situation in the country as a whole continues to be normal. But he made [words indistinct] clear that no one has claimed responsibility until now.

The Rashtriya Panchayat will meet again on June 24.

King Addresses 36th Rashtriya Panchayat Session

BK201510 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 19 Jun 85

[Text] His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, addressing the 36th session of the Rashtriya Panchayat in Katmandu today, said the Nepalese people are determined to discourage any attempt to undermine peace and order in the country. It becomes abiding duty of all panchas [parliament members] to counter those who seek to create an atmosphere of instability in the country by spreading unnecessary confusion about the system chosen by the people themselves in free exercise of their will.

Outlining his majesty's government's program for the next financial year, his majesty said in a least developed country like ours, attainment of the basic necessities like food, clothing, housing, education, health, and security for the entire Nepalese people remains to be the main concern of the government. With a view to enlisting active participation of the inhabitants of each region, zone, district, village and town in the task of nation building, the government has adopted the Decentralization Act and has already made legal provisions for its implementation. His majesty said as envisaged in the decentralization program, his majesty's government will encourage local panchayats to think in terms of all-round developments of people in their respective areas and undertake corresponding responsibility with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the local development program.

His majesty said in accordance with the basic principles endorsed by the national (?economic) council, the government has formulated the seventh plan to be implemented from the ensuing fiscal year. Provision has been made for the formulation of district-level projects in the respective districts with a view to operationalize the principles of decentralization. The [words indistinct] (?units) in the National Planning Commission for regular review and progressive evaluation, thereby enhancing effective implementation of nation-level priority projects, shall be developed during the next fiscal year [words indistinct].

His majesty said as regards agricultural development, his majesty's government will lay special emphasis on increasing production by further extending the (?grant-in-aid) to grow more food. In this process, the government will encourage private sector in agriculture, horticulture, vegetable farming, and livestocks by taking necessary steps at national level and fix the prices of agricultural products in time. Steps to further extend and strengthen all farm development programs will be undertaken.

In the area of water resources, his majesty said the government will continue to make efforts to secure the maximum utilization of the available resources, keeping in view the national requirement. His majesty said in the sector of hydroelectricity, efforts to achieve speedy implementation of the ongoing Kulek-

hani second project, [name indistinct] project which is now at [words indistinct] implementation state, and of other small hydroelectricity projects shall continue. His majesty said the government will actively pursue the program to expand the irrigation facilities with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and will take steps to fix the ceiling for water utilization on the basis of prospect for harvest in order to regulate distribution of water from the projects already completed.

While laying special emphasis on protection of tenancy rights in the effectiveness of the implementation of the land reform program, his majesty said the government will take concrete steps toward making the farmers cooperative program more service-oriented than institutional level.

Regarding forest and land conservation, his majesty the king said the government will, besides protecting the forest, launch a program to supply the people with necessary fuel wood and timber and maintain environmental balance, and to that end undertake massive afforestation program in the [words indistinct] private and public forests, likewise, every effort to secure greater popular participation in the program to extend land conservation in order to increase productivity. His majesty added the government will adopt a policy of enlisting cooperation of non-governmental organizations and agencies in carrying out programs related to [words indistinct] management of national packs and wildlife sanctuaries and [words indistinct] conservation.

His majesty added in view of the necessity of foreign investments and appropriate modern technology in the process of industrialization, a policy of encouraging foreign investment and transfer of technology is being followed since last few years. His majesty's government will take significant steps during the coming year to introduce firmly an appropriate modification in the laws and regulations in force for the last 5 years so as to making industrial investment even more attractive. His majesty went on: To promote exports trade the government will maintain the present system of cash incentives and will continue to provide soft loans with appropriate modification. His majesty said with the policy of adopting a single medium (?in) all aspects of telecommunication services, his majesty's government will undertake conversion and extension of all manual telephone exchanges throughout the country into a digital system. This program will be launched and completed during the seventh plan period, he said.

Preliminary works connected with the second phase of the process of medium wave radio broadcast throughout the kingdom will be undertaken during the coming fiscal year. The government will adopt appropriate policy to expand and consolidate postal services by gradually modernizing the service. In keeping with the program of decentralization to be implemented from the coming fiscal year, his majesty's government will classify roads to be constructed at central and district levels and will accord priority to the time-bound construction of the roads of national importance.

Pointing out that the government will make efforts [words indistinct] in generating greater opportunity for employment, his majesty said the objective of the government was [words indistinct] and mobilize maximum public participation in gradually expanding the social welfare system with a view to increasing standards of living of all classes in the society.

His majesty said in order to augment the tourist traffic, emphasis will be placed on promotional drives in tourist-generating countries and added his majesty's government will also take measures for the conservation of national environment and make an appropriate program to develop modern tourism.

His majesty said radio programs for primary teachers training will be continued so as to make primary education easily accessible to all as well as to ensure its quantitative and qualitative development. Primary teacher training program will be effectively implemented as it has been felt necessary to create an atmosphere of (?purely) competition for the sake of educational discipline and improving the quality of education, system of awarding the schools, imparting of college education at the district level. Mechanism to achieve more active and participatory role of the local school management meetings in the management of school affairs will be (?evolved). Program for the conservation and preservation of the national culture and archeological heritages will be effectively implemented. Stress will be laid on development of technical education in the area of higher education and the policy of encouraging the private sector for the development of general higher education will continue.

His majesty said the Royal Nepal Academy established with the objective to promote Nepalese nationalism through the media of language, literature, arts, music, culture, knowledge, and science and to encourage social work with strict [words indistinct], character, occupation, and civilization for the service would be given proper attention. Likewise, his majesty's government will extend appropriate assistance to the Royal Nepal Academy for science and technology to make it more efficient and effective in order to meet the first need of an international scientific and technological capacity to fulfill the basic necessity of the people.

His majesty said our foreign policy, based on the principles of nonalignment and directed toward preserving national integrity and independence by further consolidating relations of close friendship, cooperation, and understanding with all countries of the world and, in particular, neighboring India and China and other countries of this region, will be maintained. In keeping with this policy, his majesty's state visit to the Kingdom of Thailand last winter and the recent state visit to the Kingdom of Nepal by his excellency the president of the Republic of the Maldives have served to strengthen friendship, goodwill and mutual understanding between the Kingdom of Nepal and those countries.

His majesty said at a time when the international situation is both complex and tense, Nepal has been actively supporting true initiatives for peace both within the United Nations and outside. Accordingly, a contingent of the Royal Nepalese Army has once again started participating in the efforts to establish peace in Lebanon at the call of the United Nations. His majesty's government will remain firm in its commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and will continue to follow the policy of opposing outside interference in the affairs of any state.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the proposal to have Nepal decared a zone of peace is increasingly recognized by the international community as an appropriate step toward success of world peace. We wish to express our appreciation to all friendly countries that had extended support to this proposal, his majesty said.

His majesty noted the present international economic situation has been a matter of grave concern. In the context of the world economic crisis, we all believe that the South Asian Regional Cooperation can be an important step toward the realization of this goal of political self-reliance, (?close) economic cooperation among developing countries, as well as for promotion of regional peace, understanding, and friendship. His majesty's government will continue to pursue its policy of mobilizing various forms of cooperation to Nepal's economic development from the major powers, industrialized nations as well as from the developing countries. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all friendly countries and international agencies and institutions that have extended valuable cooperation in our development efforts, his majesty said.

His majesty the king said undeterred by impediments that may arise in the implementation of development programs owing to the compulsions of our geography, history, and know-how, all are expected to actively cooperate and contribute to the process of national development by harnessing the country's resources in a scientific manner. Dynamism and active popular participation continue to be the characteristics of Nepal's social system. Bearing this in mind, [passage indistinct].

SRI LANKA

Tamil Separatists To Observe 3-Month Cease-Fire

HK201544 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Madras, Southern India, June 20 (AFP) — Sri Lankan Tamil separatist groups here said today that Tuesday's declaration of a ceasefire on the island was a unilateral move by the Sri Lankan Government.

However, a spokesman for the Eelam National Front said the front's four groups and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam had decided to observe a ceasefire for three months on the clear understanding that during this period the government would come forward with an acceptable political solution to the Sri Lanka's ethnic strife. The spokesman said that autonomy for the Tamil region of Sri Lanka was the least the front was prepared to accept.

The spokesman said the government declared the ceasefire because it wanted a meeting of a World Bank-led consortium in Paris to favourably consider its request for massive aid to rebuild the Sri Lankan economy.

The front comprises the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation.

Militant members of Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community have been waging a guerrilla campaign for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island. The majority of Sri Lanka's population is Sinhalese.

The spokesman said that while the Tamil groups were considering the ceasefire proposal the Sri Lankan Government had unilaterally declared the cessation of hostilities.

The Tamil groups are demanding that the Sri Lankan Government create conditions that would allow the return to Sri Lanka of some 100,000 Tamils who have fled to India since the communal strife broke out, the release of all political prisoners, the lifting of restrictions on movement, and the end of state-aided Sinhala "colonisation" of traditionally Tamil areas. "We will not provoke any violence during the truce period but if the Sri Lanka Armed Forces indulge in Army violence, we will not hesitate to retaliate," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, Hector Jayewardene, the brother of Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, left here for Colombo today after a week-long stay during which he conferred with Indian constitutional experts. He also met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi yesterday to discuss the latest developments in Sri Lanka. *THE MADRAS DAILY HINDU* said Mr. Gandhi was believed to have sent a fresh message to the Sri Lankan President via his brother in an attempt to get talks on a political solution off the ground.

Khomeyni Receives Hashemi-Rafsanjani 20 Jun
LD201317 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic Thursday received Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran.

Khomeyni Addresses Officials on 'Id al-Fitr Festival
LD201627 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, the president, the president of the Supreme Court, members of the Council of Guardians, the management and deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, members of the Supreme Judicial Council, ministers, members of the clergy, military and civilian officials, supervisors of revolutionary organizations and government departments, and ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Islamic countries in Tehran this morning were received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this meeting, which was also attended by members of the family of the valiant and proud Islamic commander, the martyred Dr Mostafa Chamran, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, began by offering congratulations to the imam of the ummah on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. Then the imam of the ummah made extensive remarks. We draw your attention to the details of this meeting:

[Begin recording] [Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We express our congratulations on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, the great feast of the Muslim people and Islamic nations, to our dear leader and imam. Thanks be to God, God's bounties to the Iranian nation during this blessed month were most complete and most perfect. Divine grace poured upon the fond hearts and souls of these people like a shower. We are thankful to God for having enabled our nation to receive the full benefit of these bounties.

What the people demonstrated during the month of Ramadan in the form of patience, steadfastness and reliance upon God, belittling the enemies of God and glorifying God's greatness, provides us with the opportunity for double congratulations. We have derived these benefits from the greatness of our revolution and from the greatness of your noble self. These potentialities were brought into actuality by your powerful hands and as the result of the boundless and inexplicable blessings of this revolution. The revolution endowed the people with this reliance, and in your grace's actions we have always witnessed this patience, fortitude and Islamic and Koranic reliance upon God. We praise God that our people have been given the opportunity to be followers in the true sense of the word. With such an ummah and such an imam our future is very hopeful and full of glad tidings; and we have this hope and this expectation from God's grace that we will get closer to our Islamic goals day by day. I finish my remarks, in the hope that all of us will benefit from Your Holiness's remarks, God willing.

[Khomeyni] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I hope that this great feast will be full of bliss for all the Muslims of the world and all the oppressed people, especially the great Iranian nation. I hope that the powerful hand of His Holiness the Lord of the Age will be behind this dear nation.

The purpose for which all the prophets have been sent above all other issues has been to spread monotheism and to educate the people to know the reality as it is, not as we imagine. All their instructions and all their exhortations are for the sake of saving people from darkness -- and all the world is in darkness -- and to lead them to light. There is no light except God almighty. All the rest is darkness. If we succeed in ridding ourselves of all these dark veils, if we succeed in going beyond even light veils, and if we succeed in tearing off all the veils, then we will recognize God in all his names and attributes; and we will see that there is no one but him. Belief in its true meaning is limited to God's prophets and saints; those who are in lower ranks have less and as for us, we have an insignificant amount.

The reason why the blessed month of Ramadan is a holy month is due to the fact that in this month, the prophet has achieved knowledge and as a result of God's inspiration, the angels and the Koran have descended upon him. It is by his power that the angels descend. It is by the power of Almighty God that the Koran and the angels descend. The prophet of God receives the truth of the Koran in this holy month, and through the angels who are all at his command he receives the noble Koran to the extent which is needed by the people. The Koran is not within our scope. It is not within man's scope. The Koran is a mystery between God and his great vice-regent who is the prophet of God. This mystery has been revealed to the prophet, until it takes shape in the form of words and a book which we possess and which we understand only dimly. The mystery of the Night of Merit [the night when Muhammad received the first revelation] and the mystery of the descent of angels on the Night of Merit which in the words of His Holiness Imam Sadiq, peace be upon him, is a night more precious than a thousand nights — if we were to understand these mysteries all our difficulties would be made easy. All our difficulties are due to the fact that we are unable to understand reality as it is, and to understand the world of creation as it really exists. We imagine that the life of this world is valuable, and that nonexistence in this world is a defect; while the life of this world is only for the sake of the truth which has descended from the hidden world. If man has any value, it is due to the status which he possessed in an earlier stage. Of course, people's stations and levels differ.

I hope that as the result of the blessings of this holy month and this blessed 'Id we will receive some portions so that we can emerge dignified from the difficulties which are imposed upon us. The intention of all those things which have been revealed by prophets have not been concerned with our material selves. The purification of souls was the intention of the prophets. All their teachings are introductions for awakening the people, for instructing the people and teaching man what he has been, what he is and what he will become; and what man's virtues are in the sight of Almighty God.

Our understanding is incapable of becoming fully aware of these issues. I hope that as the result of the blessings of God, we will

be able to achieve a weak understanding of these issues, and that the veils will be removed from our eyes. When God Almighty says "God is the light of heavens and earth," or "I am the first, I am the last, I am manifest, I am hidden," we should understand the truth of these verses with our hearts and our souls — not as a scientific understanding, scientific understanding is simple — we should comprehend them with our inner sight. The understanding of these issues is most difficult and would require divine assistance. The prophets and saints with their self-mortification and their efforts have reached these stages. In some of the prayers which have been written by 'Ali -- peace be upon him, who has been described by some as the silent Koran -- there is so much divine truth that one is amazed. There are so many divine truths and issues which have been described in the form of parables and aphorisms; until 'Ali reaches the prayers and meditations at which stage he left the world. At that stage, his prayers are not within the scope of understanding of ordinary people. Of course, all his writings are full of everything, but the truths which are revealed in the prayers and meditations of 'Ali, peace be upon him, belong to a dimension different from ordinary issues and ordinary teachings and injunctions. These prayers are especially revealed to make man achieve the highest spiritual stations.

I hope that in the same way that our country has been transformed in every respect, it will also be transformed in this respect. I hope that in your steadfastness, which has been manifested in the battlefronts and demonstrations — the demonstrations had no precedent — all of you will become exemplars of Islam and exemplars of Iran. After all those pressures, after all those threats and after all that intimidation, after many years of hardships and war, nevertheless all the Iranian people were mobilized for the achievement of one goal, a great goal, and poured into the streets. On the one hand, this is due to the influence of Islam. It is Islam which has so transformed the people, banished fear from their hearts and turned the souls and lives into something divine, to such an extent that they dress young children in shrouds and say that we have brought them for martyrdom. There is no precedent for this in the history of the world. If you search the entire history of the world, you will not find anything like this situation, in which despite all these threats and intimidations made against the people and despite all these bombardments of various parts of Iran, even Tehran, the people would pour out into the streets in such a manner that no one can any longer say that the people do not want war. The people do not want war, but they are engaged in defense. The shouts of "War, war until victory" which are raised by the people are about a defensive war.

To begin with, if these issues had not come about, Iran did not covet anywhere, nor is it coveting anywhere today [as heard]. The mistake was made by the foreigners, those who were unaware of Islam and of the power of Islam, those whose eyes were covered by veils and could not see, and still cannot see; however, now one of the veils has been removed. Now all the people and all the superpowers know what the issue is. All the propaganda that they are engaged in is due to the fact that they know how important the issue is, and how they should confront it. Their first tactic is to remain silent about it. Their silence does not mean that they do not understand. Those who should know, know the truth. Those leaders of the world, the superpowers, know it. The news agencies which they have here inform them of the issues as they are. However, they prepare another version for their propaganda purposes. It is not the case that they do not know; they do know.

They know that despite all their propaganda, despite all the threats they made, and even the White House has threatened Iran, the Iranian nation laid all those threats on the surface of streets and walked over them. They know what the truth is. Now they are trying to approach the matter from a different angle.

They imagined they could create discord in Iran. They are constantly insisting that there is discord, that the leaders are at odds with one another, that the people have become tired of continuing the war. They imagined that by talking about discord that discord would develop among the people. Then, one day they opened their eyes and saw Iran rise in unison. [Shouts: "War, war until victory"] Then, one day they woke up and saw what was what. At the moment they are at a loss as to what to do. They talked about discord. Of course, we knew what was behind that. They thought that by talking about discord they could bring about discord; by saying that the people had become tired of the war it would bring about tiredness. On Jerusalem Day they all suddenly received a slap in the face. The analysis that the Iranian nation demonstrated in practice rendered all their analyses null and void.

This is one of the virtues of Islam, and one of the virtues of the Iranian nation. On Jerusalem Day, as you all observed and as the ambassadors who are here today witnessed — what was seen on that day was not something that could occur for the likes of Carter or other American presidents, past or present. Because they had been misled they thought that Iran had eventually come to the end of its tether. The people had seen so much destruction and homelessness, and now they are running out of the arena and the matter could now be brought to its conclusion. But they suddenly opened their eyes and saw an Iran solidly in favor of continuing the war, a defensive war.

We are unable to thank the Iranian nation. We are ourselves but a mere mite, a drop in this vast ocean. We say that God will thank you. When we thank you we are only conveying God's thanks. You have proved something to the world: Although it was prevented from being spread, nevertheless you proved to the world that Iran would not accept an imposed peace, that Iran would not abandon the arena under any form of threat, that Iran relies upon God's power, the one who possesses faith in his heart, the one who believes in the day of judgement and knows God and his command of destiny — that sort of person would not abandon the arena. They should think again.

Those who were under the illusion that Iran would fall in 2 months, 3 months or a year, should think again. Their reckoning has proved wrong. The superpowers should also think again. So, it would be better for them to desist from what they are doing. It would be better for them to desist from backing their wicked agent, who has brought such a disgrace for the superpowers. A wretched person has been turned into a toy. It has turned out differently from what they imagined. His efforts have become useless now [as heard].

They imagined that if they dropped a few bombs on Iranian towns, Iran would then run out of the arena. They dropped

thousands of bombs on our border towns and major cities, and yet on Jerusalem Day there was such a tumult and such cries that the people could not hear the roar of guns and the sound of bomb explosions; the people's cries drowned all other noises. These cries emanated from the heart of a believer. The cry that comes from the heart of the believer overcomes everything, even the White House. It has already overcome that. This wave has already spread throughout the world, and the world is now liberating itself from the opression to which it had been subjected.

Everywhere now there is talk of rejecting injustice. The mighty hand of nations has put the superpowers in their places and will continue to do so. Nations of the world are now aware of things; they will not allow what used to be done in the past. The old method of intimidation, whereby they would send a few warships over in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf are obsolete now. These no longer cut any ice among the people. The nation that comes out ready to be martyred will not be intimidated by threat of martyrdom. They threatened that the people's homes will be destroyed, that the people would be killed. But the people came out, they came forward. Who are you intimidating? This is stupid. What Saddam did recently — something which ran counter to all international and divine norms and laws and something that the whole world encouraged him to do — this foolish thing should not be repeated. If it were repeated the situation would become worse than in the past. You have seen that the more you did, the more crimes you committed, the firmer the nation became. The same applies to the future, too, for unless you come to your senses and desist from acts of wickedness the response would be even firmer than in the past. [Shouts: "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader," "Down with the country's counterrevolution," "Down with America," "Down with the USSR," "Down with the hypocrites and Saddam," and "Down with Israel"]

God willing, God will grant the power of faith to all Islamic nations and increase our nation's strength of faith. I hope they will desist from these acts of wickedness so that nations may devote themselves to their efforts. We are unhappy both about their acts of wickedness and about retaliating; we would be unhappy about both these things. I hope that the issue will cease to exist. I hope that God will make you successful, God willing, and bestow on us some of the blessings of the holy month that has just ended and of the 'Id al-Fitr. Peace and God's benedictions be upon you. [End recording]

Rafsanjani Departs for Libya, Views Hijacking

LD201426 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA — The speaker of the Iranian Majlis, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday left Tehran for Libya to hold talks on regional issues as well as on the situation in Lebanon with Libyan officials. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the Minister of Guards Corps Mohsen Rafiqdust are accompanying the speaker.

Before leaving Tehran, Rafsanjani said "The Lebanese issues which appear to be a plot against the Islamic world and progressive Arab countries and also regional issues will be discussed with the leader of Libya". He said "we want to talk about the grounds for halting plots against the Shi'ites, the Palestinians, progressive countries and the Islamic revolution".

On the recent threats by the United States to launch military attacks on the Islamic Republic and on accusations that Iran was involved in the recent hijacking of a Trans World Airlines plane, Rafsanjani denied any connection between the Islamic Republic and the hijacking. He said "Americans threaten our nation whenever they find an excuse but such threats are among the biggest mistakes they have made".

Interviewed on Visit, Hijacking

GF201836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] The speaker of the Islamic Majlis, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, left this afternoon for the friendly and brotherly country of Libya at the head of a high-level delegation of our country's officials. Prior to his departure, he granted an exclusive interview with our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport on the objectives and reasons for this visit and (?regarding) the accompanying delegation and said:

[Begin recording] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In his exalted name. This visit should have taken place some time back. Earlier, the leaders of the brotherly country of Libya had invited me and I had accepted. It was decided that I would make the trip before Moharram [the first month of the lunar calendar] in order to discuss problems of the area and numerous other issues which should be discussed. Certain conditions did not permit me to go on the trip before the month of Ramadan and now I have the time. Of course, various problems regarding the situation in the area demanded this visit should take place soon — issues and plots against the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution in the world and against the progressive Arab nations in whose ranks they endeavored to create rifts. I thought that we could devote some time to this, and prove effective in preventing problems and the conspiracies against the people of Lebanon, the Palestinians, and the Shi'ites of Lebanon; against our Islamic revolution; against Syria; and against other progressive countries. On the whole, we were awaiting for the appropriate time when our friends in the Foreign Ministry and some of the Majlis deputies and members of the cabinet and others could accompany us.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is your view on the recent hijacking of the American airliner and the recent U.S. threat?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is known that I have a different view. First of all, we as a matter of fact are not responsible (?to this country) and we see no connection between the hijacking and the Islamic Republic. We do not understand this. The identity of the group that has committed the hijacking it is not known. Suppose, for example, that they are good Muslims and are acceptable to us. This is no reason for the United States to blackmail other countries and intervene against the (?sovereignty) of other countries. Besides, if their threat materializes, it will be the Americans' greatest mistake. The Americans follow a (?policy) whereby they connect one thing to another; thus if one organization has good relations with another country then they attack that

government because they cannot locate the organization. But this will catch the skirt of the United States and its allies. For example, if there is a terrorist incident in our country and if we followed the same course, then we could accuse France at every juncture because our counterrevolutionaries are being supported in France. For every person who is killed, every bomb that is exploded, we can avenge it on France.

On the whole, everywhere in the world, especially in the countries of the Third World, the [words indistinct] of terrorism are usually from the countries of the United States, France, or any other country which is a superpower or [word indistinct]. The United States itself follows this course. The people must learn this and then avenge the acts of counterrevolutionary terrorists from among the Americans, French, and other [words indistinct]. But I doubt if the Americans will be so stupid, as they threaten [words indistinct]. [End recording]

Sends Message to USSR

GF210730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] While flying over Soviet airspace, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent a message to the leader of the Soviet Union. The message reads:

Mr Gorbachev, leader of the USSR: I take this opportunity, while flying over the neighborly and friendly Soviet Union, to say that I am happy to send you warm greetings on behalf of myself and my delegation to you and the Soviet people.

I hope we can witness a strengthening in friendly ties and warm neighborly attitudes between our two countries, Iran and the Soviet Union.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis

Sends Message to Turkey

GF210736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Jun 85

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent a message to the authorities and the Muslim people of Turkey on his way to Libya while flying over Turkish airspace. The message of the Majlis speaker reads:

Greetings! I take this opportunity, while I am flying over the friendly and brotherly nation Turkey, to send you and the Muslim people of Turkey warm greetings on behalf of myself and my delegation.

While wishing you greetings on 'Id al-Fitr, I hope for solidarity among Islamic nations in a joint struggle with world aggressors and the enemies of Islam.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis

Japan 'Looking Forward To' Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visit

LD201242 Tehran IRNA in English 1228 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA — In a meeting with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili in Tokyo, the Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said the Japanese Government and the speakers of the Japanese houses of parliament were looking forward to the forthcoming visit to Japan by Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said he hoped that the visit will help promote further expansion of relations between Tehran and Tokyo.

Prime Minister Musavi Visits Tabriz 20 Jun

GF200816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Prime Minister Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Oil Minister Ghafuri-Fard arrived in Tabriz today to meet the martyr-loving and always present people of eastern Azarbayjan and to speak at the august 'Id al-Fitr prayers ceremony as well as to inaugurate a 120,000 ton silo in Tabriz. At the airport the prime minister was received by the city's clerics and the governor of eastern Azarbayjan along with civil and military officials.

After arriving at Tabriz, the prime minister attended grand 'Id al-Fitr prayers at the Mossala' [outdoor prayer area] in Tabriz and made a speech. During his speech, Musavi greeted all on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. He referred to the superpower plots and said: During the past month, we have faced a united plot by the big powers against the Islamic Revolution similar to that in 1981. They have become despondent over the war and have now started a psychological war against the revolution. The prime minister also said that on world-wide Jerusalem Day, the martyr-giving people of Iran threatened the very foundations of the reactionary regimes and the interests of the superpowers. Nobody could predict that one day Islam would rise in the world with such force.

In his speech Musavi said that during last month all the world's mass media were trying to break our will, while the most sophisticated weapons were being delivered to Saddam to be used to crush the Iranian nation. However, our Muslim nation unitedly declared that we will never bow to their force or arms. (?After 1 month of prayer and resistance, we went forward to welcome the bombs, and resumed attacks on the Saddamists.)

The prime minister further said that with the great procession on Jerusalem Day, the Iranian nation proved it will, until the last moment and until Isalm commands, continue to stand so that even if all of us are annihilated, Islam will survive.

Addresses Construction Workers

LD201600 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., June 20, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi inaugurated the first Iranian-built silo here Thursday after attending mass prayers in which he sharply attacked foreign powers for waging a psychological war against the Islamic Republic.

Addressing workers and engineers at the site of the 120,000-ton Tabriz silo, Musavi said the Islamic Revolution has brought a "divine and devotional aspect" into government administration. "This return to religion can be a weapon in the hands of the oppressed masses to face arrogant powers", he said.

The prime minister said that with the guidance of Islamic values the fear to implement great constructive projects was cast away and short cuts were found in their implementation.

The Tabriz project along with four other silos was expropriated from British firms in 1977 when they failed to complete them even at twice the initial cost. The unfinished silos were handed to workers and engineers of the Construction Jihad who finished three of the projects and are in the last stages of completing the other two.

Prime Minister Musavi praised the workers and said their work in construction sites was of equal value to those of the military facing Iraqi troops at the fronts. "In fact it is such constructions that guarantee victory at the fronts", he said.

Earlier Thursday, the prime minister had attended the 'Id al-Fitr prayers to mark the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. The celebrations, a national holiday, are marked by mass prayers. Addressing the worshipers, Musavi sharply attacked super powers for plotting against the Islamic Republic in a bid to save their interests.

He said when arrogant powers realized their failure in defeating the Islamic Republic through military means they "initiated a psychological war to defeat our morale but instead our Muslim people defeated their plots by taking part in the Qods [Jerusalem] Day demonstrations". He was referring to last Friday's massive demonstrations throughout the country held in support of a military solution to the imposed Iraqi war.

Musavi accused big powers of plotting to break the will of the people through broadcasting Persian radio programs and said "they know the victory of the revolution is the victory of Islam and an end to superpower interests".

The prime minister also criticized the silence of international organizations including the mass media on Iraqi raids on residential areas and said "all factors united to force our nation to surrender".

Israel May Free Prisoners; Says No Tie to Hijacking

LD201809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 jun 85

[Text] Today in Beirut the paramilitary men who are holding 40 American hostages from the hijacked aircraft threatened that they will release the hostages only when the Israelis release the 700 Lebanese Muslim prisoners. Currently, the American aircraft which was hijacked on 14 June en route from Athens to Rome by several Lebanese is still parked in a corner of Beirut Airport, and negotiations aimed at ending this event are continuing.

The AP report, quoting a UN spokesman, states: Xavier Peres de Cuellar, UN secretary general, is participating continuously and actively in efforts to release the American hostages in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, an official of the Zionist regime said: It is possible that Israel may free a group of Muslim prisoners. According to the AP report, this official stated that the release of this number bears no connection to the issue of the hijacked plane in Lebanon. This report also states that Israel's aim with regard to these statements is to prepare domestic and foreign public opinion for the eventuality of releasing the Muslim prisoners but not in response to the crisis of the hijacked aicraft. *THE JERUSALEM POST* newspaper published an article on this topic saying that there is a possibility that the prisoners may be released sometime at the beginning of next week.

Reportage, Comment on Iraqi Military Operations

Retaliation If Bombing Resumes

LD201529 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA — After a cabinet meeting Wednesday, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran would bombard Iraqi cities non-stop if Iraq resumed its raids on residential areas. He said "the government is prepared to meet all Iraqi mischiefs with a revolutionary spirit". The cabinet had met to discuss its foreign policy towards countries supporting the Iraqi Ba'th regime in its war against Iran.

Musavi said "We have prepared ourselves to continue resistance for the independence of the Islamic revolution as long as necessary". He said "if Saddam wants to start its provocations again, we have no reason to halt our fire on Iraqi cities". The war of the cities came to a halt last Saturday but Iraq has threatened to raid residential areas 6 July.

The prime minister also spoke on the recent popular support expressed for a military solution to the war and said that the masses participating in demonstrations last week "showed in their slogans that their solution to the war of the cities is not surrender."

Communique on Iraqi Casualties

LD201626 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA — Iraqi forces suffered heavy casualties in the western front while artillery duels between Iran's Muslim combatants and the enemy continued in all fronts, said the Joint Staff Command in its daily communique of battle in the past 24 hours.

The communique said 250 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and four of their tanks destroyed when Iranian forces rushed Iraqi positions in the western front. Ten Iraqi vehicles, two bridges and two ammunition depots were reported destroyed in the attack. The command gave no other detail.

Meanwhile in Haj 'Umran and Sardasht areas, it said Iranian fire silenced Iraqi artillery fire and destroyed a number of their bunkers and observation posts.

In the southern front artillery duels continued and in the vicinity of the Arvand River, the gendarmerie forces killed four Iraqi soldiers and destroyed three bunkers, one ammunition depot and two vehicles, the command reported.

Badr Sector Infiltration

LD211118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Unidentified correspondent's "telephone report" from Ahvaz on Zafar-IV infiltration operations in the "Badr operational sector"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In continuation of the relentless battle of the warriors on the battlefronts of the war of justice against injustice in our country's western and southern regions, at 2030 hours last night, the combatants of Islam launched the infiltrating operations ofZafar-IV in the Badr operational sector in order to annihilate another part of Saddam's infidel forces.

In the course of these operations, which were backed by intensive fire from Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the combatants of Islam, by relying on divine succor and the principle of surprise attack, crossed countless minefields, concertina wire and other obstacles on two operational axes and succeeded in encircling the enemy and penetrating the heart of the Saddam forces.

The forces of Islam, by killing or wounding more than 170 troops of the Iraqi Armed Forces, inflicted further heavy and crushing blows on the 65th, 49th, and 118th Brigades from the 31st Division of the Iraqi Third Army.

During these operations, in addition to burning some enemy weapons and equipment and destroying some of the foxholes and group bunkers of the defeated forces, the combatants of Islam captured some light and heavy weapons.

The commander of the engaged forces in these victorious operations, said in an interview: We must continue the war until eradication of sedition and all aggressions of the Iraqi Armed Forces; and we shall teach Saddam and his supporters that we shall retaliate on the battlefronts for bombing of our cities.